UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/46/41
9 January 1992

Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 66

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/46/679)]

46/41. Question of Antarctica

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Recalling its resolutions 38/77 of 15 December 1983, 39/152 of 17 December 1984, 40/156 A and B of 16 December 1985, 41/88 A and B of 4 December 1986, 42/46 A and B of 30 November 1987, 43/83 A and B of 7 December 1988, 44/124 A and B of 15 December 1989 and 45/78 A and B of 12 December 1990,

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the final documents adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 1/ the second meeting of States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, held at Abuja from 25 to 29 June 1990, 2/ the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo from 31 July to 5 August 1990, 3/ and the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, held at Harare from 16 to 22 October 1991, 4/

1/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

2/ See A/45/474, annex.

3/ A/45/421-S/21797, annex IV, resolution 17/19-E.

4/ A/46/708, annex, para. 44.

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Taking into account the debates on this item held since its thirty-eighth session,

Reaffirming the principle that the international community is entitled to information covering all aspects of Antarctica and that the United Nations should be made the repository for all such information in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 41/88 A, 42/46 B, 43/83 A, 44/124 B and 45/78 A,

Conscious of the particular significance of Antarctica to the international community in terms, inter alia, of international peace and security, environment, its effects on global climate conditions, economy and scientific research,

Conscious also of the interrelationship between Antarctica and the physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the total Earth system,

Welcoming the increasing recognition of the significant impact that Antarctica exerts on the global environment and ecosystems and of the need for a comprehensive agreement to be negotiated by the international community on the protection and conservation of the Antarctic environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

Sharing the concern over the environmental degradation of Antarctica and its impact on global environment expressed at the first, second and third substantive sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Welcoming the increasing support, including by some Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, for the establishment of Antarctica as a nature reserve or world park to ensure the protection and conservation of its environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems for the benefit of all mankind,

Welcoming the signing of the Protocol on Environmental Protection by the Antarctic Treaty parties on 3 October 1991 at Madrid, which among other things banned prospecting and mining in and around Antarctica for the next fifty years,

Welcoming also the ongoing trend in acknowledging the need for internationally coordinated scientific research stations in Antarctica in order to minimize unnecessary duplication and logistical support facilities,

Welcoming further the increasing awareness of and interest in Antarctica shown by the international community, and convinced of the advantages to the whole of mankind of a better knowledge of Antarctica,

Affirming its conviction that, in the interest of all mankind, Antarctica should continue for ever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that it should not become the scene or object of international discord,

Reaffirming that the management and use of Antarctica should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for the benefit of mankind as a whole,

Convinced of the need to prevent or minimize any negative impact of human activity resulting from the large number of scientific stations and expeditions, including tourism, in Antarctica on the environment and its dependent and associated ecosystems,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on a United Nations-sponsored station in Antarctica 5/ and decides to keep the matter under review;

2. Takes note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of the environment in Antarctica, 6/ and requests the Secretary-General to monitor and gather information within existing resources on the state of the environment in Antarctica and to submit an annual report to the General Assembly;

3. Expresses its regret that, despite the numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General or his representative has not been invited to the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, and urges once again the Consultative Parties to invite the Secretary-General or his representative to their future meetings;

4. Reiterates its call upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to deposit information and documents covering all aspects of Antarctica with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on his evaluations thereof to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

5. Expresses its disappointment, while welcoming the recent signing at Madrid of the Protocol on Environmental Protection by the Antarctic Treaty parties, that the Protocol was not negotiated with the full participation of the international community;

6. Expresses its concern that the Madrid Protocol on Environmental Protection lacks the monitoring and implementation mechanisms to comply with the provisions of the Protocol and has not taken into consideration the call of the international community to ban permanently prospecting and mining in Antarctica;

7. Underlines its call that any move at drawing up an international convention to establish a nature reserve or world park in Antarctica and its dependent and associated ecosystems must be negotiated with the full participation of the international community;

8. Reaffirms the need to promote public awareness of the importance of Antarctica to the ecosystem, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of providing the relevant materials on Antarctica through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat;

9. Calls upon the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to increase the level of cooperation and collaboration with a view to reducing the number of scientific stations in Antarctica;

5/ A/46/583.

6/ A/46/590.

10. Urges all members of the international community to ensure that all activities in Antarctica are carried out exclusively for the purpose of peaceful scientific investigation and that all such activities will ensure the maintenance of international peace and security and the protection of the Antarctic environment and are for the benefit of all mankind;

11. Urges all States Members of the United Nations to cooperate with the Secretary-General and to continue consultations on all aspects relating to Antarctica;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

65th plenary meeting
6 December 1991

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/83 B of 7 December 1988, 44/124 B of 15 December 1989 and 45/78 B of 12 December 1990,

Having considered the item entitled "Question of Antarctica",

Noting with regret that the apartheid minority regime of South Africa, which has been suspended from participation in the General Assembly of the United Nations, has continued to participate in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties,

Recalling the resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its fiftieth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 17 to 22 July 1989, 7/

Recalling the relevant paragraphs of the final documents adopted by the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 1/

Recalling also declaration AHG/Decl.4 (XXVII) on South Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-seventh ordinary session, held at Abuja from 3 to 5 June 1991, 8/

Recalling further that the Antarctic Treaty 9/ is, by its terms, intended to further the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

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7/ See A/44/603, annex I.

8/ See A/46/390, annex II.

9/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

Noting that the system of apartheid existing in South Africa, which has been universally condemned, constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 10/

2. Views with concern the continuing participation of the apartheid minority regime of South Africa in the meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties;

3. Appeals once again to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the apartheid minority regime from participation in their meetings at the earliest possible date until such time that the abhorrent system and practices of apartheid minority domination are totally eliminated in South Africa;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report in this regard to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, taking into account the concern expressed in paragraph 2 above;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Question of Antarctica".

65th plenary meeting
6 December 1991

10/ A/46/512.